GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3172
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2005
CHANGE IN EARTH SHAPE
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Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether by using 30 years data of NASA Satellite Laser Ranging (SLR), scientists have revealed that earth shape has changed and the earth has flattened at the poles and widened at the equator;

(b) If so, the way it is linked to the climatic events such as El-Nino and other weather patterns; and

(c) the effect of such developments on human beings and living organisms on the earth?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (c): As per reports received, using NASA Satellite data, USA scientists have observed extremely small changes in the shape of the earth (one part in a billion in Earths oblateness). The study partially linked to climatic events, highlights the possible influence of El-Nino and Pacific Decadal Oscillation on the earth's shape and not vice versa. The effect is expected to be insignificant and scientific studies are underway in understanding the intricate processes that support life.